



## Coastside Fishing Club

666 Brighton Road, Pacifica, CA 94044

Date: April 20, 2005  
To: MLPA Initiative Staff  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Blue Ribbon Task Force

From: Coastside Fishing Club (and any others wanting to sign on to this letter)

RE: MLPA STUDY AREA REGIONAL WORKING GROUP DESIGN

The Coastside Fishing Club would like to take this time to thank the Department, MLPA staff, and the Blue Ribbon Task Force for their work thus far on the MLPA initiative as well as provide detailed stakeholder information regarding the configuration of the regional working group process.

Considering the compressed time frame all involved in this process face, a good job has been done engaging the recreational fishing community. We thank you for every opportunity to be involved in this process and look forward to the opportunities ahead. We also would like to express our satisfaction with the recently selected central coast study area as it reflects an equitable balance between science and socioeconomic factors. While the study area is undoubtedly a good choice, the design of the regional working group process is critical to making this selection a success.

### **Regional Working Group Design**

Two working groups are a necessity if this process is to succeed. It has been acknowledged publicly by Department staff that there are significant concerns regarding the feasibility of encompassing all stakeholders between Pigeon Point and Point Conception in a single process. This area represents more than 240 nautical miles of California's coast and includes multiple harbors and access points along its entire stretch. It is unreasonable to expect only a few individuals representing any particular stakeholder group to be able to adequately evaluate the process at this scale. Furthermore, a substantial hardship would be placed on working group members, especially those that volunteer spare time to attend meetings, should only a single group be implemented due to the long travel times required to attend meetings.

To address this requirement we advise that the study area between Pigeon Point and Point Conception be divided at an area between Cape San Martin and Lopez Point. The southern working group would address state waters between Point Conception and Cape San Martin with a soft boundary to Lopez Point while the northern working group would address waters between Pigeon Point and Lopez Point with a soft boundary to Cape San Martin. Approximately 17 km of overlap between the two regions would provide each group a "fuzzy" boundary in which to address the placement of MPAs and thus avoid being confined to an unnatural break in habitat or use. It is also important to note that a break in this location results in two distinct regions of roughly equal size. We feel it is



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critical to the success of implementation that the Department of Fish and Game exercise its authority and mandate two distinct working groups be formed.

### **Regional Working Group Representation**

Recreational use is the single largest user group of the nearshore marine environment and therefore should be represented proportionally on all regional working groups. Based on the principle of each working group being comprised of between 10 and 15 people we feel the following structure would best represent the stakeholders of each region:

- (4) Recreation
  - (2) private recreational fishing
  - (1) charter fishing boat captain
  - (1) other recreation (not including diving)
- (2) Commercial fishing
- (2) Dive
  - (1) consumptive
  - (1) non-consumptive
- (2) Conservation/environmental
- (1) Ports and harbors
- (1) Local business/tourism
- (1) Enforcement
- (1) Monterey Bay Sanctuary (in northern region)
- (1) At-large

We also feel it is critically important to select stakeholders that reside in or close to their respective regions and have a vested interest in the health of marine resources. In addition, it will be important to consider, as a major component, the mechanisms a particular stakeholder has to communicate with their respective community.



## Recommendations for Regional Working Group Positions

The Coastside Fishing Club would like to nominate the following individuals for positions on the two (presumed) regional working groups. Names and short bios are below:

### Northern Region Representation

Howard Egan (private recreational) – Mr. Egan has demonstrated a proven ability to: 1) work well in MPA processes and MPA constituent/stakeholder working groups, 2) work constructively with diverse stakeholder groups with sometimes conflicting interests, 3) communicate issues and status to the local and regional recreational fishing communities and organizations, 4) solicit input from local and regional recreational fishing communities and organizations. He has an excellent understanding of MPA issues in general and the MLPA specifically will ensure no learning curve for entry into the process, and allow him to hit the ground running. Mr. Egan was a member of the original MLPA working group for the Monterey Region as a recreational fishing representative. He currently serves on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary MPA working group, and holds the recreational fishing seat on the MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Alan Bushnell (private recreational) – Alan Bushnell is an avid recreational fisherman based in Santa Cruz, California and a member of the Coastside fishing Club. Alan is a licensed and bonded kayak fishing guide and thus provides a unique perspective on accessibility issues pertaining to Marine Protected Areas. Mr. Bushnell writes fishing columns for local newspapers in addition to producing and co-hosting a weekly fishing talk show, “Let’s Go Fishing” and in this regard has the ability to communicate with a large audience on issues related to the MLPA.

Tom Mattusch (CPFV recreational) - Captain Mattusch owns and operates the “Hulicat” charter boat out of Half Moon Bay, California. Tom has been active in many issues facing recreational fishermen and his highly regarded among his colleagues. Tom serves as Political Coordinator for the Coastside Fishing Club.

\*Ben Sleeter (private recreational) – Ben Sleeter is on the Board of Directors and is the MLPA Advisor to the Coastside Fishing Club in addition to serving on the existing MLPA Statewide Interest Group (SIG). Ben is an avid recreational angler based out of Half Moon Bay, CA and due to his involvement with the 10,000 member Coastside Fishing Club has the ability to communicate with a large number of central coast recreational anglers.

\*Dan Wolford (private recreational) – Dan Wolford is the Science Director and member of the Board of Directors for the Coastside Fishing Club. Dan is heavily involved in



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fisheries related topics such as recreational fishing catch estimation work, rockfish barotraumas research, and analysis of Essential Fish habitat proposals at the PFMC.

\*denotes alternate nomination

### **Southern Region Representation (as suggested by the Central Coast Fisheries Conservation Coalition)**

Melvin A. de la Motte, Jr - President of the Central Coast Fisheries Conservation Coalition (CCFCC). Melvin is a retired attorney who has been a recreational fishermen for over 30 years on the Central Coast and is aware of the condition of all nearshore species of fish along the Central Coast zone and has fished Monterey Bay and is very familiar with the entire coastline from Pt. Sur to Pt. Conception. The CCFCC is a Central-California based organization with approximately 800-1000 paying members.

Eric Endersby - Assistant Harbor-Master of Morro Bay. Eric has been active in the MLPA process and has actively participated in the process through the CFC organization. He is very familiar with the Central Coast and the harbor of Morro Bay.

Robert Hather - Mr. Hather is a member of the important Marine Interest Group (MIG) based in San Luis Obispo County. This group chaired by Dr. Dean Wendt who is a member of the MLPA scientific panel has been very active in measuring and analyzing marine life along the Central Coast. Mr. Hather has been fishing the Central Coast with his own boat for the last 35 years. He is the administrator of *FISHREPORTS.NET*, which is the most popular fishing web site on the Central Coast. Mr. Hather is also a director of the CCFCC. He is a retired stock-broker.

Tom Capen - Mr. Capen is an experienced “crabber” who has been crab fishing along the Central Coast for many years. Although his home port is Port San Luis, Mr. Capen fishes for crab all along the coast of California. Mr. Capen is the president of the Port San Luis Commercial Fishing Association.

Jeramiah O’Brien - Mr. O’Brien is a well-known recreational fishermen with a home port of Morro Bay. He is the president of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen’s Association. He has been active in fishing politics on the Central Coast for many years and is a member of the CFC.

Rick Algert - Mr. Algert is the Harbormaster of Morro Bay Harbor. He has been active in the MLPA through the CFC. He has also been active in the statewide harbormasters association.

Hugh Thomas - Mr. Thomas is a live-fish fisherman. He has been active in Central Coast fishing for many decades. He is a participant in the MLPA process through the CFC. He is a retired captain of the California Department of Fish & Game.



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Jay Elder - Mr. Elder is the Harbormaster for Port San Luis. He is also active in the harbormasters association of California. He is very familiar with Port San Luis and the fishing grounds between Port San Luis and Pt. Conception.

On behalf of the Coastside Fishing Club (and others) we thank you for the opportunity to participate in the MLPA process and we hope you find our suggestions constructive to the process.

Signed

Ben Sleeter  
MLPA Advisor, Board of Directors  
Coastside Fishing Club